UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/ICEF/1996/P/L.21/Add.1
7 June 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

UNITED NATIONS CHILDREN'S FUND
Executive Board
Third regular session 1996
16-19 September 1996
Item 3 of the provisional agenda*

FOR ACTION

COUNTRY PROGRAMME RECOMMENDATION**

Dominican Republic

Addendum

SUMMARY

The present addendum to the country note submitted to the Executive Board at its first regular session in January 1996 contains the final country programme recommendation for Board approval.

It contains a recommendation for funding the country programme of the Dominican Republic which has an annual planning level of $1,000,000 or less. The Executive Director recommends that the Executive Board approve the amount of $5,000,000 from general resources, subject to the availability of funds, and $5,000,000 in supplementary funds, subject to the availability of specific-purpose contributions, for the period 1997 to 2001.

* E/ICEF/1996/18.

** The original country note provided only indicative figures for estimated programme cooperation. The figures provided in the present addendum are final and take into account unspent balances of programme cooperation at the end of 1995. They will be contained in the "Summary of 1996 recommendations for general resources and supplementary funding programmes" (E/ICEF/1996/P/L.43/Add.2).

/...

BASIC DATA
(1994 unless otherwise stated)

Child population (millions, 0-15 years)	2.89
U5MR (per 1,000 live births)	45
IMR (per 1,000 live births)	38
Underweight (% moderate and severe) (1991)	10
Maternal mortality rate (per 100,000 live births) (1990)	110
Literacy (% male/female) (1995)	82/82
Primary school enrolment (% net, male/female) (1993)	79/83
Primary school children reaching grade 5 (%)	..
Access to safe water (%) (1993)	71
Access to health services (%) (1991)	80
GNP per capita	$1,320

One-year-olds fully immunized against (1995):

tuberculosis:	74 per cent
diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus:	83 per cent
measles:	85 per cent
poliomyelitis:	80 per cent

Pregnant women immunized against:

tetanus:	52 per cent

THE SITUATION OF CHILDREN AND WOMEN

1. Despite economic growth and increased gross national product (GNP) per capita during the last four years, socio-economic disparities have increased in the Dominican Republic. It is estimated that about one half of the population is living in poverty, including an estimated 1.8 million children. Public expenditure on social services amounts to about 6 per cent of GNP, below the region's average. The recent social reform agenda emphasizes the need for a greater correspondence between improved economic performance and social policies.

2. The prospects for achieving the goals for the reduction of the infant mortality rate (IMR) and the under-five mortality rate (U5MR) are good. Between 1991-1994, IMR and U5MR declined significantly from 43 and 60 per 1,000 live births, respectively, to 38 and 45 per 1,000 live births. None the less, diarrhoeal diseases and acute respiratory infections (ARI), associated with poverty, malnutrition and low birth weight, remain among the main causes of death of children under five years of age. The low level of exclusive breast-feeding, coupled with deficient weaning, inadequate food supplementation and vitamin A deficiencies, contribute to the above. Maternal mortality rates remain high, although 93 per cent of births occur in hospitals and 97 per cent of women receive prenatal care. Special efforts will be required if this goal is to be achieved.

3. Nine per cent of children are orphans or have parents living abroad. There are about 354,910 working children, one half of them under 14 years of age. An estimated 58,000 of them work on the streets and about 25,000 are currently exposed to sexual exploitation and HIV/AIDS.

4. The situation of women continues to be directly affected by poverty, gender inequality and poor access to credit. One out of every six families is affected by violence and abuse against women and/or children. Some 29 per cent of all families are headed by women. Partial modifications of the Labour Code have been achieved in terms of modifying discriminatory and obsolete legislation, but further legislative reform benefiting women is required.

5. Notwithstanding the Government's Ten-Year Education Plan, deficiencies in quality and coverage persist, and repetition and drop-out rates are high. This situation is worse in rural areas, where multigrade teaching is used in 60 per cent of elementary classes, and teachers lack adequate methodology, training and materials. The education goal for the year 2000 will be difficult to achieve.

6. The goals of the national programme of action (NPA) have been included in the draft of the National Social Development Plan, and trends suggest that the country will be able to achieve most of the mid-decade and decade goals for children. However, more efficient use of existing national resources will be required.

PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1992-1996

7. The previous programme emphasized advocacy and technical assistance for implementation of the NPA and compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Nine mid-decade goals were achieved and goal monitoring systems have been strengthened to monitor progress of the NPA. In cooperation with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), a Social Data Bank and a local monitoring system were established in three provinces. A National Legal Code for Children and Adolescents was drafted and approved in 1994 and the Organismo Rector, a legal entity in charge of compliance with the Convention, was created. Funding from the Special Adjustment Facility for Latin America and the Caribbean facilitated these initiatives which also included social mobilization and training of policy makers, non-governmental organization (NGO) personnel, teachers and community promoters on child rights and gender issues. Research was undertaken in such areas as abuse and working and sexually exploited children and the impact of social policies and programmes directed at children.

8. Cost-effective initiatives which empowered communities included the establishment of 475 community oral rehydration therapy (ORT) centres (against a nationwide goal of 2,000) and training of 215 ORT brigades from 50 local NGOs and 2,375 promoters. Standard treatment for ARI and training units were introduced in eight hospitals. Advocacy and social mobilization actions by UNICEF supported policy makers in adopting more cost-effective approaches in water and sanitation.

9. An inter-agency breast-feeding movement introduced the Baby-Friendly Hospital Initiative (BFHI), which also served to raise the standards of maternal and child care. Vitamin A supplementation for preschool children and

post-partum women began in 1995 with donations from Hoffmann-La Roche and Sight and Life, and advocacy for the fortification of sugar with vitamin A with the private sector and the State Sugar Council was initiated in 1996. Other nutrition-related efforts resulted in the passage of a law on marketing of breast milk substitutes and the launching of the national salt iodation programme.

10. A campaign promoted mayors as "social managers" in coordination with the Liga Municipal (Municipal League), which coordinates and involves 16 municipal governments, NGOs and the private sector in important initiatives, e.g., the creation of oral rehydration units (ORUs) and the promotion of salt iodation.

11. The Ministry of Education and UNICEF succeeded with the revision of school textbooks to incorporate a gender perspective. An innovative teaching methodology was introduced in 11 multigrade schools and is now being expanded towards nationwide coverage. Non-formal preschool education coverage reached 40,000 children in community centres. Training was provided to 8,904 teachers and community educators and supplies were provided for 900 community and pre-primary centres.

12. Technical support was provided to the Women's Bureau and NGOs for drafting the National Platform for Women, presented at the Fourth World Conference on Women. Four women's legal clinics were established to offer counselling on violence and abuse-related cases.

Lessons learned

13. Despite a complex political environment, effective results have been achieved through strategies that encourage participation, consensus and commitment among the different government and NGO partners. The pilot multigrade education project has shown that quality services also lead to increased demand and participation. Combined efforts of the Ministry of Health, NGOs and grass-roots organizations through BFHI and ORUs have proven to be an effective approach towards the achievement of the decade's mortality/morbidity reduction goals. A more developed communication and mobilization strategy could mobilize additional resources for the NPA goals. Given the limited financial resources of the programme, there is a need to concentrate and reduce the dispersion of activities.

RECOMMENDED PROGRAMME COOPERATION, 1997-2001

Estimated annual expenditure

(In thousands of United States dollars)

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	Total
General resources						
Social policy and child and women's rights	310	293	260	246	204	1 313
Education	150	143	151	157	149	750
Integrated child and reproductive health	230	234	249	257	267	1 237
Communication for development	90	90	90	90	90	450
Programme support	220	240	250	250	290	1 250
Subtotal	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	5 000
Supplementary funds						
Social policy and child and women's rights	155	145	275	275	275	1 125
Education	315	300	100	100	100	915
Integrated child and reproductive health	280	305	250	250	250	1 335
Communication for development	150	150	150	150	150	750
Programme support	100	100	225	225	225	875
Subtotal	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	1 000	5 000
Total	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	2 000	10 000

14. The country programme preparation process was based on: (a) the ongoing situation analysis of children; (b) annual reviews and the mid-term review involving UNICEF and government partners; (c) the October 1995 strategy meeting, where the Government, UNICEF, NGOs and multilateral and bilateral agencies jointly formulated the country note; (d) the draft National Development Plan; (e) an assessment of financial and technical capacities of proposed partners and UNICEF; and (f) Executive Board comments on the country note.

15. The country programme aims to: (a) address more fully children's and women's rights in the social reform process and National Development Plan; (b) demonstrate ways to accelerate implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Children's Code; (c) increase the efficiency, effectiveness and equity of maternal and child health (MCH) care at selected health centres and at the community level in order to reduce prevalent childhood illnesses and maternal mortality; (d) assist the development and dissemination of community-based initiatives for early childhood care and education; and (e) expand the number and coverage of cost-effective initiatives related to raising the quality of preschool and primary education in rural and peri-urban areas.

16. Strategies of advocacy and social mobilization will help to generate actions from major social organizations in support of women's and children's rights. This strategy will build on the existing Alliance for Children to establish a wider consortium of Government, NGOs and bilateral and multilateral agencies to promote child and women's rights. Capacity-building and empowerment strategies will focus on improving cost-efficiency and effectiveness, primarily through better organization and use of existing agency and community personnel in all aspects of programme management, e.g., service delivery and monitoring. Given the limited resources of UNICEF, less emphasis will be given to direct support to service delivery.

Social policy and child and women's rights

17. This programme will provide technical and logistical support for: (a) monitoring implementation of the National Development Plan, e.g., expenditures for basic human development needs and compliance with the 20/20 initiative; (b) improved monitoring of NPA goals through training, research and evaluations; and (c) sustaining the Mayors as Defenders of Children Initiative in 16 municipalities and gradually expanding it to additional municipalities. The expansion of the Initiative will be done with supplementary funds. Other activities will be financed with general resources. The Liga Municipal will be the major partner. Coordination of activities with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) initiatives is currently under discussion.

18. The child rights project will help to implement the Legal Code for Children through the provision of advocacy, social mobilization, technical and logistical support for: (a) establishing 10 municipal pro-rights committees, 30 provincial and 7 regional councils, and strengthening partnerships with the Catholic Church, NGOs, local governments and the private sector; (b) training for the Organismo Rector; (c) preparing the report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, research and evaluations of key service programmes and printing of a training package on child rights; (d) legislative reform; (e) training of 200 government personnel on child rights' issues; and (f) improving the reintegration of vulnerable children into families and schools. General resources will be used to support the Organismo Rector in the establishment of local councils and committees and for training and evaluation for institutional and programme reform. Supplementary funds will support social mobilization activities and improved services for vulnerable children.

19. The women's rights project will assist the Women's Bureau and a consortium of NGOs with implementation of the Women's National Platform of Action. Activities will include: (a) formulation, monitoring and implementation of policies and legislation related to women; (b) training of women in management, leadership and income-generating activities; and (c) training and technical support for evaluation and expansion of community legal services centres and other services for women who are victims of violence and discrimination. General resources will finance technical support to the Women's Bureau and basic training to women's groups, hospital volunteers and the police. Supplementary funds will support applied research and training of NGOs providing loans to women.

Education

20. The objectives are to: (a) promote local initiatives for non-formal programmes for early childhood care and education; and (b) sustain and expand

the innovative basic education model for rural and peri-urban communities. The programme, which consists of two projects, will provide concrete, cost-effective experiences to help strengthen national education policies and attract funding from donors.

21. The early childhood development and education project will provide technical support for curriculum development and strategies for educating children from 0-5 years who are not covered by early childhood education programmes. A key strategy will be the training and education of parents, families and community caretakers in child development, growth monitoring and education. The project also will help communities, families and caretakers to organize early childhood development and education programmes. General resources will be used for capacity-building and the development of education materials, but supplementary funds will be required for information, education and communication activities. The project will be coordinated with the communication programme.

22. The basic education project will help to expand to 250 the number of innovative multigrade schools in rural and peri-urban areas, which will serve as models of participatory and democratic teaching practices, child-centred learning environments and pertinent education. Capacity-building will include technical support for the development of learning materials, the training of teachers and parents, support for teacher and community networks and some essential supplies and equipment. The Ministry of Education will cover recurrent costs of this project, the United States Committee for UNICEF will finance the expansion to 100 schools during 1997 and 1998, and general resources will be used for teacher training and the printing of teaching guides.

23. The education programme will coordinate activities with the health and nutrition programme, e.g., health and nutrition issues in the development of early childhood learning materials. Child rights will be a component of formal and non-formal education.

Integrated child and reproductive health

24. The objectives of the two projects aim at: (a) making children's and women's health rights a higher priority in the current health reform; (b) expanding the number of baby-friendly hospitals to 30 and linking the promotion of breast-feeding to the expansion of coverage of immunization, ARI, diarrhoea, growth monitoring and maternal care services; (c) establishing 975 integrated community care units (ICCUs); and (d) increasing community initiatives for monitoring and surveillance of MCH, particularly to help reduce maternal mortality.

25. General resources will help to expand coverage of integrated health services in 20 health centres and support in-service training of health workers. In addition, UNICEF will support the establishment of 400 ICCUs through the training of health volunteers and community leaders, expanding the network of community brigades from 65 to 125 and providing basic equipment and technical support for the health reform; the training of 30 community support groups and 30 community maternal mortality surveillance committees; and developing educational and information material. Supplementary funds will support the expansion of integrated health services as well as ICCUs.

Communication for development

26. This programme's objectives are: (a) to heighten the commitment of policy makers on priority issues related to children and women; (b) to provide information - based on Facts for Life - that foster communities' knowledge, practices and attitudes and a demand for basic services; (c) to forge partnerships with the media; and (d) to raise supplementary funds from public and private resources for the country programme. Activities will include public education and information, advocacy and social mobilization, and the training of NGOs and government officials. General resources will be used to produce and disseminate materials, train social communicators and support a joint UNICEF/UNFPA Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) project for journalists. Supplementary funds will support the production of materials based on Facts for Life and social mobilization campaigns.

Fund-raising strategy

27. A fund-raising strategy will concentrate on international and local private sector sources and strengthen sales of greeting cards and products. Partnerships and alliances with international NGOs and the Peace Corps (United States) and local banks and private enterprises will be strengthened. For 1997 and 1998, the United States Committee for UNICEF already has approved $1,000,000 in supplementary funds for project activities related to education, health and nutrition, and children's rights.

Monitoring and evaluation

28. A monitoring plan is being developed in coordination with the National Planning Office and sectoral agencies. Monitoring tools will include joint field visits, annual reviews of project implementation and a mid-term review in 1999. Within the framework of the Mayors as Defenders of Children Initiative and with technical support from the National Planning Office, 16 provincial governments and a network of NGOs will be trained to establish monitoring systems.

Coordination with other agencies

29. Inter-agency coordination with the United Nations system, USAID and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) will be based on the country's memorandum on inter-agency collaboration in support of the World Summit Agreements, which is expected to be ratified in the framework of the country strategy note, which is currently under discussion. The Inter-agency Committee for Health includes United Nations agencies, IDB, the European Union, Plan International, the Cooperative for American Relief Everywhere, Inc., Rotary International and USAID. The Water and Environmental Sanitation Monitoring Committee includes government institutions as well as PAHO and UNDP. UNICEF also will cooperate with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, the United Nations Inter-agency Committee for Women and Development, and PAHO, UNFPA and USAID in family planning and adolescent pregnancies.

Programme management

30. The country programme will be managed through a UNICEF country office structure composed of three interrelated clusters: (a) programmes; (b) administration, finance and personnel; and (c) information and external relations. UNICEF Professional staff will provide technical assistance for the implementation of the proposed programme and, as such, constitute an important programme input in keeping with a strategy mix that emphasizes capacity-building.

TABLE

LINKAGE OF PROGRAMME BUDGET AND STAFFING/STAFF COSTS

COUNTRY : Dominican Republic
PROGRAMME : 1997-2001

PROGRAMME SECTION/AREAS AND FUNDING SOURCE	PROGRAMME BUDGET (In thousands of US dollars)				POSTS a/										STAFF COSTS b/ (In thousands of US dollars)		
	GR	FSF	NSF	TOTAL	D2/L7	D1/L6	P/L5	P/L4	P/L3	P/L2	IP	NP	GS	TOTAL	IP	LOCAL	TOTAL
GENERAL RESOURCES :																	
SOC. POLICY, CHILD/WOMEN'S RIGHTS	1,313			1,313	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	3	0.0	499.4	499.4
EDUCATION	750			750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	295.0	295.0
INTGR. CHILD & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH	1,237			1,237	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.0	396.6	396.6
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT	450			450	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.0	194.9	194.9
PROGRAMME SUPPORT	1,250			1,250	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2	3	739.9	223.1	963.0
TOTAL GR	5,000			5,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	5	9	739.9	1,609.0	2,348.9
SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDING :																	
SOC. POLICY, CHILD/WOMEN'S RIGHTS		0	1,125	1,125	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
EDUCATION		0	915	915	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
INTGR. CHILD & REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH		0	1,335	1,335	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.0	295.7	295.7
COMMUNICATION FOR DEVELOPMENT		0	750	750	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PROGRAMME SUPPORT		0	875	875	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0	0.0
TOTAL SF		0	5,000	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	2	0.0	295.7	295.7
TOTAL GR & SF	5,000	0	5,000	10,000	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	4	6	11	739.9	1,904.7	2,644.6
ADM. & PROGRAMME SUPPORT BUDGET	Operating costs			888.3													
	Staffing				0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2	4	7	814.6	1,175.1	1,989.7
GRAND TOTAL (GR+SF+ADM)					0	0	1	1	0	0	2	6	10	18	1,554.5	3,079.8	4,634.3
Number of posts and staff costs:																	
Current programme cycle											2	6	11	19			
At the end of proposed programme cycle (indicative only)											2	6	10	18	1,554.5	3,079.8	4,634.3

GR = general resources.
SF = supplementary funding.
FSF = funded supplementary funding.
NSF = new supplementary funding.
IP = international Professional.
NP = national Professional.
GS = General Service.
ADM = administrative.

a/ Each post, regardless of its funding source, supports the country programme as a whole.
b/ Exclude temporary assistance and overtime; include costs of United Nations volunteers.